

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION TASK FORCE

January, 1984

The Excellence in Education Task Force, composed of seven citizen members of the state and four ex officio nonvoting members of the General Assembly, was established by the Legislative Council, to review the current state of public education in this state and make recommendations for education in the 1980s. The Task Force initially was granted five meetings in which to complete its task and has subsequently been granted approval for eight additional meetings. The Task Force anticipates completion of its Final Report during the summer of 1984.

Members named to the Task Force are:

Mr. Tom Urban, Des Moines, Chairperson
Ms. Margaret Borgen, Des Moines
Ms. Betty Jean Furgerson, Waterloo
Ms. Karen Goodenow, Wall Lake
Dr. James Jess, Latimer
Mr. James Knott, Carroll
Mr. Mark Schantz, Des Moines
Senator Joe Brown, Montezuma
Senator Arthur L. Gratias, Nora Springs
Representative Horace Daggett, Lenox
Representative Richard Groth, Albert City

Chairperson Urban divided the charge of the Task Force into six separate areas and asked each citizen member to assume responsibility for selecting a subcommittee of interested and knowledgeable persons from throughout the state and for conducting a study to determine and describe the present conditions in the assigned area, to recommend a vision for the future, and to describe the standards that need to be developed in order to attain that vision.

The six subcommittees and their chairpersons are:

Education and Industry Subcommittee - Dr. Jess
Higher Education Subcommittee - Mr. Schantz
Curriculum Subcommittee - Ms. Furgerson
Educational Framework Subcommittee - Ms. Goodenow
Student Responsibility and Discipline Subcommittee - Mr. Knott
Teaching Quality Subcommittee - Ms. Borgen

The Subcommittee chairpersons each selected from five to eight additional persons to assist them in their study and these persons have agreed to serve without receiving either per diem or expenses from the state of Iowa. Each subcommittee has held a number of meetings and plans to continue meeting during the legislative session in order to finalize recommendations to the Task Force no later than June 1, 1984. A listing of the meetings of the Task Force and Subcommittees is attached to this report.

The members of each Subcommittee have developed a list of topics that they will consider within their assigned area and a general schedule for developing recommendations. The Subcommittees have begun studying background information, hearing testimony from invited persons, holding public hearings, developing surveys and questionnaires, and discussing the issues.

The Task Force has met monthly to receive progress reports about the activities of the Subcommittees and contemplates continuing this schedule during the legislative session. This meeting format has allowed Task Force members and the ex officio legislative members to make comments and suggestions about the thrust and scope of each of the Subcommittees.

Further information about the activities of the Task Force and its Subcommittees may be obtained from the Legislative Service Bureau.